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For Immediate Release:

Maple Sugar Days at Wehr Nature Center

Franklin, WI (March 9, 2015) — Celebrating the arrival of spring, Wehr Nature Center will present the 40th Annual Maple Sugar Days, Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29, from 1–4 p.m. Wehr Nature Center is located in Whitnall Park at 9701 W. College Ave.

With above-freezing temperatures during the day and below-freezing temperatures at night, the sap in Wehr's sugar maples begins to flow. From sap collection to boil-down, Maple Sugar Days will highlight the syrup-making process.

"It is wonderful to get back outdoors after our long winter," said Bev Bryant, Wehr Naturalist. "Kids and grown-ups alike need a chance to stretch and smell spring in the air."

The family-friendly event will feature a hike led by a naturalist guide. The trek will wind through the woodland to the sugarbush, where event-goers will see tapped sugar maples and taste sap as it drips from a tree. Gathered around a campfire, visitors will take a trip through time, learning about the history of the sugaring process. The sweet aroma of maple syrup will lead visitors to the boil-down station, where clear sap will be boiled down to form dark syrup. Walks to the sugarbush will last about 45 minutes. Visitors are encouraged to dress in layers and to dress to keep their feet warm. The first tour will start at 1 p.m.; the last tour, 4 p.m. Hikes will go on rain or shine.

Hands-on activities for young and old will include using a hand drill on a log, trying Native-American methods of boiling sap without metal pans, and making a craft. The sweet reward will be real maple syrup on a pancake and maple sugar on a stick.

Instructions and equipment for tapping maple trees as well as maple-candy treats will be on sale in the Friends of Wehr Nature Store. Food and beverage concessions will include popcorn, hot dogs, brownies, hot chocolate, coffee, soda, and made-on-site maple-sugar cotton candy.

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Admission for Maple Sugar Days is \$6 per person age 3 and up; children age 2 and under are free.

The regular parking fee will be in effect for both events.

A free booklet, “Backyard Maple Sugaring, or, The Family Boils Down,” is available on the parks website.

For more information go to countyparks.com or call Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550.

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